



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

SINCE 1947

MAKING FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD

The Southern California DX Club is a proud group of men and women of the world wide Amateur Radio community that enjoys communications with other Amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be used as time and space permit. Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the Club. Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the Editor. Some articles may be copyright. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except April, June and December. Other times may occur. Please check the Club web site at <http://www.scdxc.org>



Repeater:  
W6AM/R  
145.48,(-)  
100Hz PL

NCDXF #4171



## USING THE MAGIC OF RADIO



THE INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION VISALIA  
SINCE 1949

October 2008

## Recent SK

Received notice that Bill Mauzey, W6RT (ex W6WWQ) passed away on Sept. 8, 2008. He was 83. Bill was a long time member of our club and recently joined his wife at an Assisted Living location in the valley. Bill was President in 1964 and twice selected as DXer of the year.(1964 and 1982)

Another long time local. Geri De Moss Sr, K6ERI of Oxnard. He was 83.

## THE PREZ SEZ



Thanks to everyone who came to the September meeting to enjoy our annual auction. A special thanks to Jim, N6DHZ who served as auctioneer; and Jeff, K6JW who managed all the buying and selling via his laptop computer. The bidding started off slow, but once the first “sold” took place, the rest was an interesting bidding competition. I believe everyone had a good time.

Not much has been happening on the air lately. Especially for me. I had surgery on my right foot early September, and I am not allowed any weight bearing on that foot until early November. I can get around with my “mobile knee walker,” which is actually a knee scooter. It reminds me of when I was a kid and we used to make our own scooters. The only difference is you mount your knee on a knee-high pad instead of your foot on the runner board. And, it has a hand brake. So, I gracefully stand up on my good foot, position my knee on the pad, and I’m off to wherever I need to go in the house. The problem I have is dangling my foot down. I have great difficulty in sitting at my station for more than a minute. It is near impossible to try and work DX in my current stage of healing. So, for me it is time-out for a while.

I am, however, able to get out of the house. Wayne hauls my wheelchair in the car, and we’re off. I did make it to the general meeting to take part in the auction, which I did. I guess I am a sucker for auctions. I see something I want, and the bidding goes on till I get the auctioneer’s “sold,” After all, it is for the club!

The convention treasurer has finalized the income and expenditures for our 2008 Visalia convention. Besides our hosting another great convention, it was good financially. Thus, for another two years, we can continue to donate to up and coming rare Dxpeditons, support the ARRL, and continue to give back to our members by way of the year-end banquet, summer picnic, and summer “Bash,” which will be held by the San Diego DX club next year. Thanks to everyone who served on the committee, and to all our members who attended the convention. We also want to thank the Arizona, San Diego, and Mexico DX clubs for all their valuable help in making our convention successful. Without everyone’s support, all of these good things could not happen.

I hope to see a good turn out at October’s meeting. Yes, I’ll still be in my wheelchair, but that won’t hold me back. Till then,  
88’s Sharon Spring, K6IRD, President, SCDXC



CONGRATULATIONS  
OUR NEWEST HONORARY MEMBER

A salute to a great DXer



Hello... Just want to let everyone know I'm still around - just haven't been able to get to the meetings due to work. I have missed out on two great meetings...John Haslett's presentation and also last months auction where many of you cleaned out your shacks. It's my understanding the auction went well!



I look forward to the upcoming meeting. I have some new items for the raffle along with some good old favorites.

My wife Sharon (KF6WQU) says she will be stirring up some witches brew and haunting surprises for snack time.

As of right now, the speaker for October is not set - but I have two great speakers lined up. So either way...it will be a fun evening!

Hope to see all of you there.

Tom Paquette, N6OT, Vice President SCDXC



The home of "Bob", John Orton, WA6BOB

Picture from The SCDXC Reflector

## Publishers comments

There seems to be faction of the club that believes that the newsletter is a soap box for individual agendas. As one of the premier DX clubs in the world, this newsletter is the mirror image of the Southern California DX Club and can not be used to promote any sort of political or personal agenda. Some time ago during the time of the SW Directors debate and the ensuing debate about private funding for DXpeditions a lot of angry chatter was released. The Board determined at that time that the club would stay out of the politics of the league or any other organization and to further protect our image, the newsletter would not print any article not related to Amateur Radio or any article that promoted a political or personal agenda. All clubs have their internal disagreements but they manage to keep it home and do not spread angry comments around the world. To this end I must humbly apologize for an article released in September. That was a violation of our rule and was a mistake. Sorry to say that September is come and gone. Spilled milk does not go back to the bottle and I can not change something already printed.

Steve Shane

Club Secretary and Publisher of the SCDXC Newsletter

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## MORE ABOUT WHAT IS DX, REALLY

An editorial

By Dave Bell, W6AQ

Last month I passed along to you the definition of a DXer as told to me long ago by my Elmer into ham radio, Jack, W8LIO. Jack's definition, and consequently my definition, is that a DXer is anyone who loves DXing. It's that simple.

Between 9:30 and 10 AM local time on a Sunday morning a couple of weeks ago I had a roundtable conversation with DJ0QN, Mitch in Munich, his pal Peter, DL4LAM in Hanover, 4S7WP, Shanthi (pronounced Shawn-tee) in Sri Lanka, and a couple of locals, Bill, W6ZRZ and Dick, K6VGP. There was absolutely no QRM or QRN. Every voice was crystal clear. It was like the good old days, when there were sunspots in abundance.

It had been raining in Sri Lanka, it being on the end of the southwest monsoon season, and coming soon would be the monsoon season from the north. With a little luck, Shanthi said, there might be a little time to dry out between monsoons. (Why can't we get a couple of monsoons down our way is what I want to know?)

Mitch had done a 65 Km bike ride yesterday, and was feeling (and sounding) great, but he told of his upcoming week which would take him all over Germany, one city after another (he works for IBM) including a night with his pal Peter in Hanover for an old fashioned eyeball QSO. Peter said he probably wasn't going to the contest dinner in Dayton next year because he's decided he prefers one on one conversations over dinner with friends, which included everyone in the roundtable plus a few more who get together at Dayton every year, including me.

Earlier in the day (it was 7:30 PM or so in Germany, local time) he'd been on 40 and 20 but found the conditions not so hot, so he, like the rest of us, was hoping for a sunspot one of these days.

Bill, W6ZRZ, mentioned that he'd been running the QCWA Sunday net in Los Angeles since May of 1982 and had only missed two Sundays. That's got to be some kind of a record. He acted as sort of the MC of the roundtable.

When I told Dick, K6VGP, that I would be around next Sunday because I was going to be in Mesa, Arizona at the Southwestern Division annual convention, he recalled that he went to one in Scottsdale almost fifty years ago and the mobile rig in his 1958 Ford won the prize as the best mobile installation at the convention.

And, just being back from my second two-week holiday on the shores of Lake Michigan, I told the gang that the reason Sam and I really like it there is that we're from Ohio (I was W8GUE originally) so it's like going home. Also, we stay with my old college pal, Brad, W8JJO and his gourmet-cook-wife and we talk and ham and put up antennas and eat. So now I'm on a diet.

What else is new?

In other words, what you have here is a typical roundtable. You might even say it's typical of the good old days when there were sunspots.

The only unusual part of this QSO is that it was on 440 MHz. It all happened on the really nifty DARN repeater system (which includes Echolink obviously) that is owned and maintained by Dick, K6VGP. DARN stands for Disaster Amateur Radio Network and indeed, the local ARES meet on this repeater system every Monday night at 9 PM local time. While the repeater is DARN, the Sunday morning net on it is PARC which stands for Palisades Amateur Radio Club, but W6ZRZ misspoke Sunday and called it the Pacific Amateur Radio Club, which given the participants, is probably more appropriate.

Was this a DX roundtable? I sure think so. Two guys in Germany and one in Sri Lanka? All in the same QSO? If it's not DX, what is it? 73, and I'll see you on the radio.



## **Member Spotlight** **Ernest Nairne, N6HY**

By Don Minkoff, NK6A

Ernie grew up in Norfolk, Virginia. Like many would-be Amateurs of the day, Ernie listened to short wave broadcasting and became hooked on radio while in high school. It also helped when you sneak a copy of QST into your math class and the instructor who caught you was also a Ham. Ernie was first licensed in 1953 as WN4ZCY (the Novice license was established in 1951). By November 1953 young Ernest upgraded to General class and became W4ZCY. Further radio instruction came from the high school electric shop and building crystal radios and early tube sets from scratch (no kits back then).

Ernie moved to California in 1957 and changed his call to K6HMA. Ernie would keep that call for some 40 years. He later upgraded to Advanced in the 70's with the beginning of incentive licensing. Later Ernie would take his Extra Class at the FCC office when it was in Long Beach. Ernie earned his BSEE from LMU in 1980 and retired from Hughes in 1990 as a Sr. Staff Engineer.

Ernie became involved with the DX Club back in 1970. He proudly showed his 110 cards at the meeting place at Clifton's Cafeteria. It would be some twenty years later before he applied for DXCC with the ARRL.

N6HY lives in Mar Vista on a corner lot where he has his 54 foot tower with a TH7DXX Yagi on top. Also on his "tree" are a 2 element 40M Cushcraft and an A3WS for the WARC bands. He shunt feeds his tower for 160 and has put together 3 verticals in phase for use on 80M. His dream antenna, the new SteppIR Dream Beam 36, will just have to wait until that Hygain falls apart.

You can see from the picture that his handicap is the nearby high voltage lines, which run behind his house. His shack is full of equipment. Currently his radio of choice is an Icom Pro III feeding an Alpha 87A-auto tune amplifier. I counted four antenna tuners. There is also a Yaesu FT736 for VHF work. Ernie works all bands and all modes.



Currently Ernie has 326 worked and 321 confirmed. He has DXCC on 20, 80 and 40, mixed and phone. Also DXCC on 30, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. 36 confirmed on 160. A few of the countries that have eluded Ernie over the years are: Heard Is., HK0, Malpelo, ZD9, ZS8, FT5W, FT5Z and 7O, Yemen and Iraq.

You might have seen Ernie at Jun's behind the counter where he has worked part time for the past 12 plus years. Knowledgeable and willing to help any prospective Amateurs who walk in or call up. He is a life member of the ARRL, a member of the QCWA, SCDXC and a local club in Los Angeles, WARC.

N6HY's goals are to get DXCC on RTTY, DXCC on 160, DXCC on CW and to get rid of his RF noise. He has won a few awards over the years for both operating in contests and actively participating in past SDXC events to win the W6AM award and the Spotting award when we used a local packet cluster to spot DX. Many CQ and ARRL award certificates are displayed in the picture of his wall of plaques.

He is always helping out behind the scenes at SCDXC events: cooking at club picnics, selling tickets at the convention and helping in the prize room. Ernie has also been my neighbor since 1980 when I moved to the West Los Angeles area. I originally lived only a few houses away. I was instantly made aware of the "local" causing my receiver to blank and for me to reach for the attenuator. 18 dB was just not enough. I later moved a few blocks away and still need more attenuation. But I also have roofing filters now plus I can do battle chasing that rare one with Ernie. He will even let me work the new one after N6HY is in the log.



Ernie's Wall of Awards



The shack

The Antenna





Rich, W6VX, just got up a new Steppir antenna this week and I visited him today. I thought you might like the attached picture for the newsletter.

73

Don N6IC



The American Radio Relay League Pacific Division & the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Presents:

# PACIFICON 2008 Is Coming Soon!

October 17-19, 2008, San Ramon Marriott Hotel

San Ramon, California

Call the Marriott Hotel Reservations Desk at 1-800-228-9290

Before October 1, 2008, to ask for the special Pacificon rate of \$90/night.

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**Conversation:** The California QSO Party October 4-5, 2008 --- Be There

Hello from N6RNO "The Rhino" your new chairman for the greatest State QSO party the California QSO Party.

When: 1600 UTC October 4, 2008 to 2159 UTC October 5, 2008

Where: 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, 2m

Modes: CW, SSB

Logs Due: November 15, 2008

The only real change this year is that we will not have county line operations.

This means that there is only one county given on a QSO.

We feel this makes it easier for everyone.

Key Information:

Website: <http://www.cqp.org>

Rules: <http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

County Registration <http://www.cqp.org/Counties-Plan-2008.html>

Operating Strategy:

[http://www.cqp.org/pdf/cqp\\_strategy\\_k6rb.pdf](http://www.cqp.org/pdf/cqp_strategy_k6rb.pdf)

Information: <mailto:info@cqp.org>



## FEATURE

What's Wrong with the Sun? (Nothing)

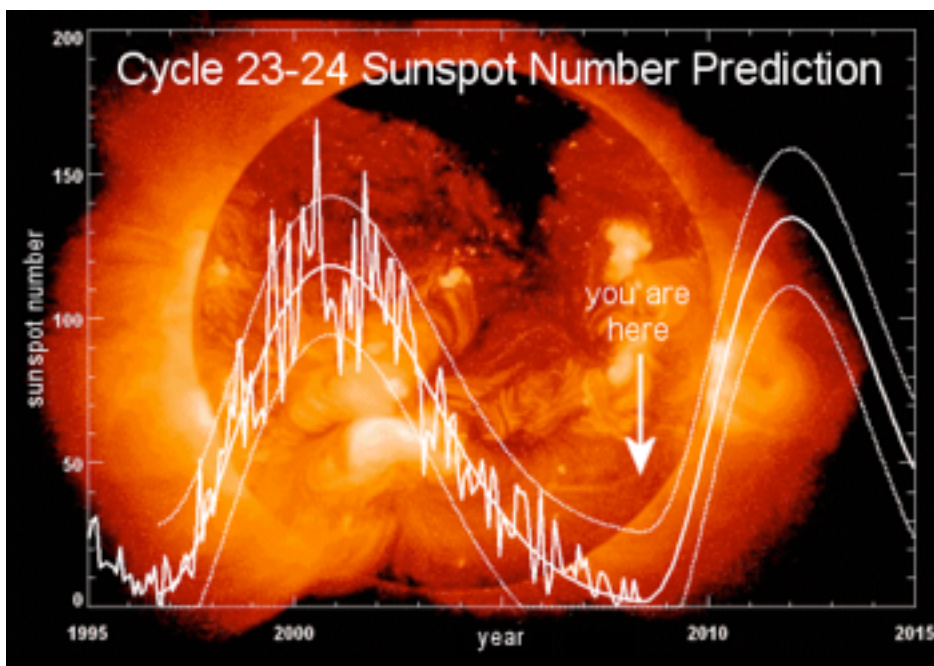
07.11.2008

July 11, 2008: Stop the presses! The sun is behaving normally.

So says NASA solar physicist David Hathaway. "There have been some reports lately that Solar Minimum is lasting longer than it should. That's not true. The ongoing lull in sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle.

"This report, that there's nothing to report, is newsworthy because of a growing buzz in lay and academic circles that something is wrong with the sun. Sun Goes Longer Than Normal Without Producing Sunspots declared one recent press release. A careful look at the data, however, suggests otherwise.

But first, a status report: "The sun is now near the low point of its 11-year activity cycle," says Hathaway. "We call this 'Solar Minimum.' It is the period of quiet that separates one Solar Max from another."



Above: The solar cycle, 1995-2015. The "noisy" curve traces measured sunspot numbers; the smoothed curves are predictions. Credit: D. Hathaway/NASA/MSFC. [more]



During Solar Max, huge sunspots and intense solar flares are a daily occurrence. Auroras appear in Florida. Radiation storms knock out satellites. Radio blackouts frustrate hams. The last such episode took place in the years around 2000-2001.

During Solar Minimum, the opposite occurs. Solar flares are almost nonexistent while whole weeks go by without a single, tiny sunspot to break the monotony of the blank sun. This is what we are experiencing now.

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Although minima are a normal aspect of the solar cycle, some observers are questioning the length of the ongoing minimum, now slogging through its 3rd year.

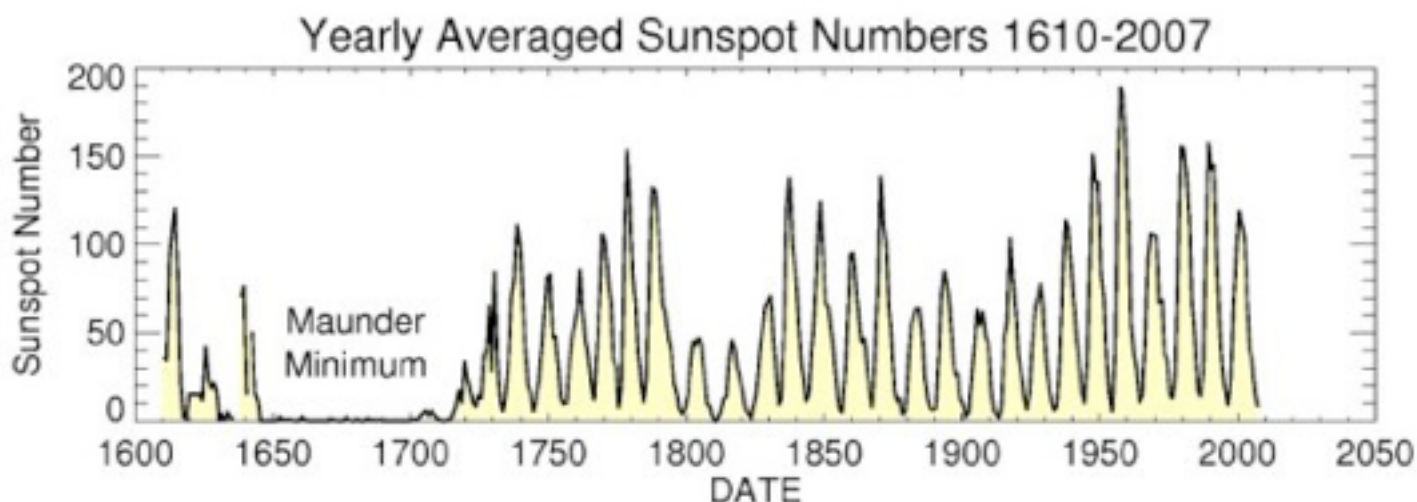
"It does seem like it's taking a long time," allows Hathaway, "but I think we're just forgetting how long a solar minimum can last." In the early 20th century there were periods of quiet lasting almost twice as long as the current spell. (See the end notes for an example.) Most researchers weren't even born then.

Hathaway has studied international sunspot counts stretching all the way back to 1749 and he offers these statistics: "The average period of a solar cycle is 131 months with a standard deviation of 14 months. Decaying solar cycle 23 (the one we are experiencing now) has so far lasted 142 months--well within the first standard deviation and thus not at all abnormal. The last available 13-month smoothed sunspot number was 5.70. This is bigger than 12 of the last 23 solar minimum values."

In summary, "the current minimum is not abnormally low or long."

The longest minimum on record, the Maunder Minimum of 1645-1715, lasted an incredible 70 years. Sunspots were rarely observed and the solar cycle seemed to have broken down completely. The period of quiet coincided with the Little Ice Age, a series of extraordinarily bitter winters in Earth's northern hemisphere. Many researchers are convinced that low solar activity, acting in concert with increased volcanism and possible changes in ocean current patterns, played a role in that 17th century cooling.

For reasons no one understands, the sunspot cycle revived itself in the early 18th century and has carried on since with the familiar 11-year period. Because solar physicists do not understand what triggered the Maunder Minimum or exactly how it influenced Earth's climate, they are always on the look-out for signs that it might be happening again.



The quiet of 2008 is not the second coming of the Maunder Minimum, believes Hathaway. "We have already observed a few sunspots from the next solar cycle," he says. (See Solar Cycle 24 Begins.) "This suggests the solar cycle is progressing normally."

What's next? Hathaway anticipates more spotless days<sup>1</sup>, maybe even hundreds, followed by a return to Solar Max conditions in the years around 2012.

Stay tuned to Science@NASA for updates.

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## SCDXC (CA) Dear Fellow DX-ers and Contesters,

You are cordially invited to the Asia Pacific DX Convention on November 7 through 9, 2008.

Please take a look at the website to see some photos and presentation videos from the first APDXC which was held in 2005. The many DX-ers from all over the world who attended enjoyed it very much.

In addition to the usual presentations of recent DX-peditions, technical sessions, etc., this convention offers something special. Since it's being held in the country from which most of the modern amateur radio equipment comes from, you'll have the opportunity to tour the Icom factory, participate in a Q&A session with Icom engineers, tour the electronics district, and more.

We would appreciate your introducing this convention to your DX/contest club members. Please see our website for more details at: <http://www.apdxc.org/>  
For convention updates, please visit the website and send an e-mail to subscribe to the APDXC newsletter.

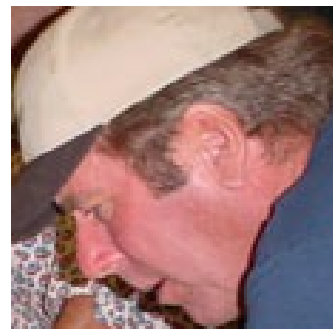
Know your Leaders  
Election of officers is coming soon  
sign up and be part of the leadership of the club.  
Put constructive DX ideas to work.



Sharon, K6IRD  
President



Dave, W6AQ  
Director and Editor  
of the SCDXC Bul



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**From:** [wa6bob@arrl.net](mailto:wa6bob@arrl.net) <[wa6bob@socal.rr.com](mailto:wa6bob@socal.rr.com)>

**Reply-To:** [wa6bob@arrl.net](mailto:wa6bob@arrl.net)

**To:** <[secretary@scdxc.org](mailto:secretary@scdxc.org)>

**Conversation:** DXpedition

Daily DX Sept 23:

The P29 DXpedition to two rare IOTA's and activating P2 on 160 has an opening. K6HFA, Hugh, has canceled because of some unfortunate circumstances. Hugh is graciously leaving his \$3000 (AUD) in the boat charter fund. Who would like to replace Hugh? For \$2067 (AUD) or \$1730 (USD) plus your own air fare (~\$3000 USD), you can be a member the team. Anyone interested can contact G3KHZ, Derek, at [G3KHZ@derekcox.plus.com](mailto:G3KHZ@derekcox.plus.com) or W5GAI, Skip, at [W5GAI@arrl.net](mailto:W5GAI@arrl.net). The P29 team is still looking for donations to help defray the cost of transporting the 160 meter amp, antennas, etc. to/from P2. If you want to contribute, they have set up PayPal on their Website [http://www.425dxn.org/dxped/p29\\_2008/](http://www.425dxn.org/dxped/p29_2008/) or checks can be sent to W5GAI.

The P29 travel schedule is as follows:

Board Barbarian II (live aboard dive boat sleeps 6 in A/C comfort)

Sat. 18-Oct-08 Arrive Garove Island, Witu group OC-181 Mon. 20-Oct-08

Leave Garove Island Sat. 26-Oct-08

Arrive Hermit Islands OC-041 Tues. 28-Oct-08

Leave Hermit Islands Mon. 03-Nov-08

Arrive Manus Island OC-025 Tues. 04-Nov-08





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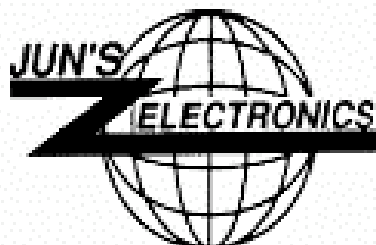
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